Look! Another educational supplement!

MARVEL

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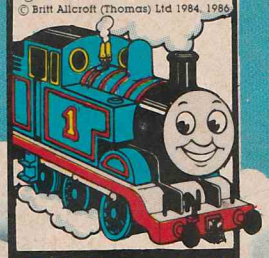
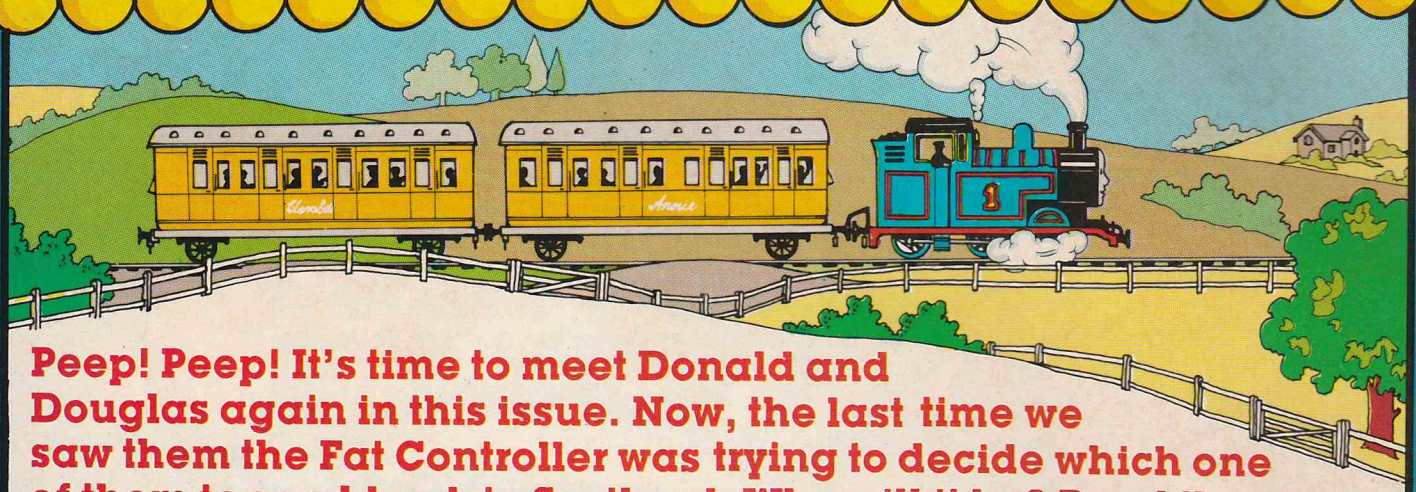


10th Dec. 1988
No.30 38p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! It's time to meet Donald and Douglas again in this issue. Now, the last time we saw them the Fat Controller was trying to decide which one of them to send back to Scotland. Who will it be? Read the story beginning on the next page to find out!

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

It costs £9.75 to have every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** sent straight to your home for a year! And you will automatically become a Thomas Club member **and** receive a very special **Thomas Pack** too! Why not be sure of your favourite magazine right through 1989? Details on page **18!**

MEMBERSHIP CARDS!

If you do not wish to take out a year's subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** but would like to join Thomas's Club by receiving your own membership card and number – it's easy! Just collect **3 tokens** like the one below, send one **yellow**, one **red** and one **green** one, together with a stamped, addressed envelope (10 × 15cm) to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

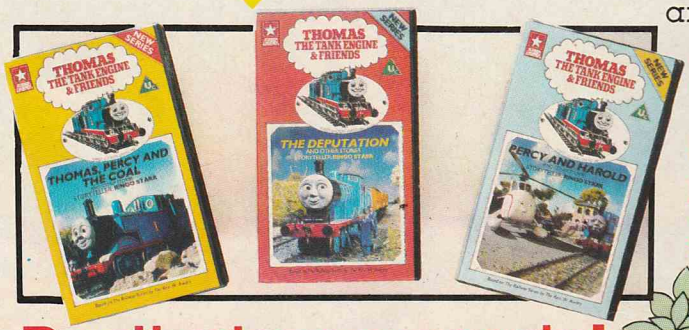
THOMAS VIDEOS!

These delightful sets of stories from Thomas's popular TV series are in the shops now – each set contains 3 videos!

We'll be sending a video to the first 10 **Club members** who write in with their name, address, membership number – and their own drawing of Harold the helicopter!

Send your entries to: *Thomas's Videos, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Meanwhile, you can say hello to Harold on **page 12!**



CHRISTMAS PACK!

Now, do you like drawing patterns? We will send Christmas Packs to the first 10 **Club members** to send us a pretty Christmas pattern using reds, greens and yellows!

Send your patterns to: *Christmas Pattern for Thomas, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.* Don't forget your name, address and membership number!

These splendid Christmas Packs come from Studio Publications Ltd, The Drift, Nacton Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. Price: £2.99.

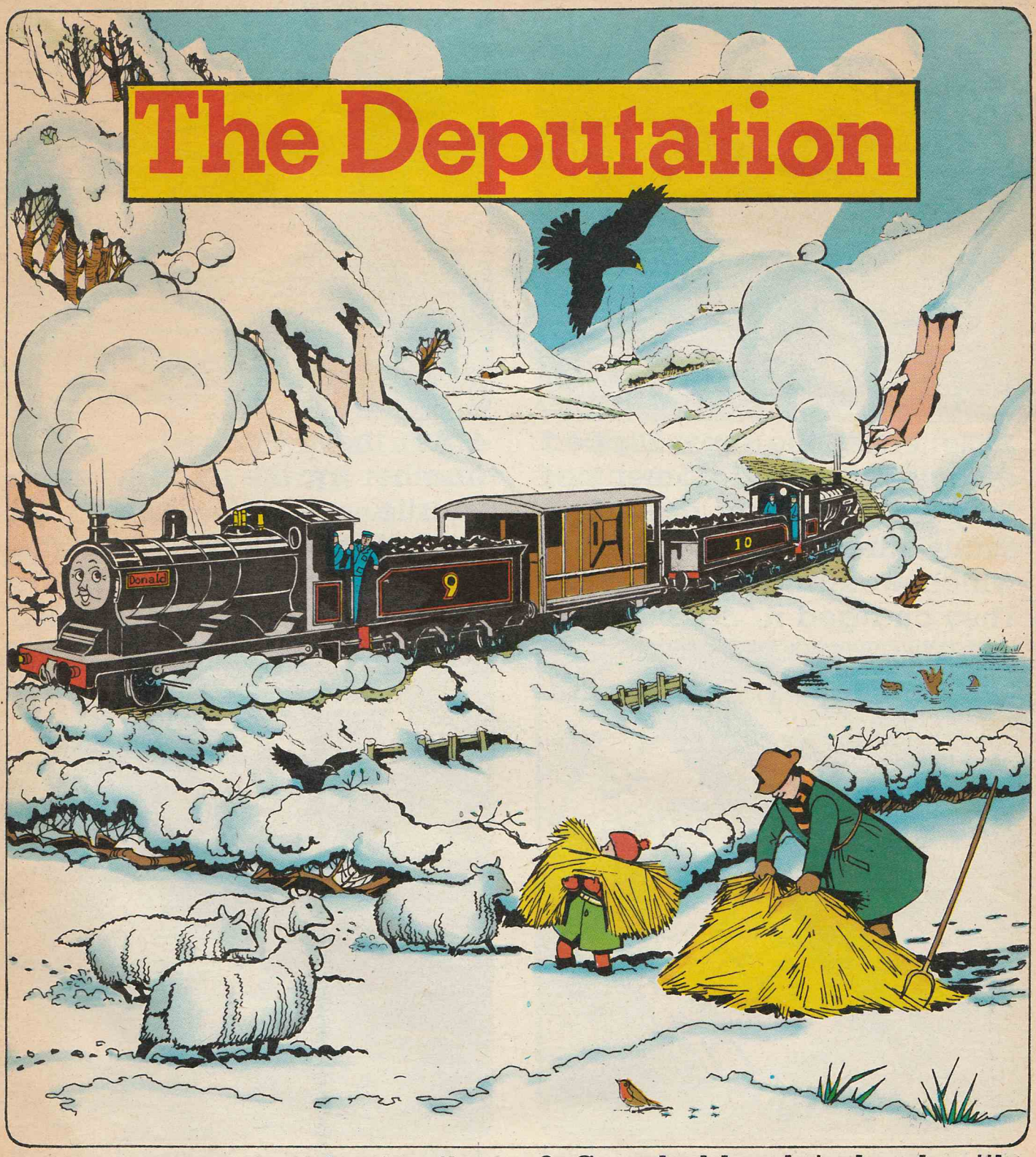
Don't miss our special Christmas issue in two weeks' time!

THOMAS TOKEN

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS LTD, a New World Entertainment Company, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX. All THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS material copyright © William Heinemann Limited 1988 copyright © Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd 1988. All rights reserved. No similarity between any names, characters, persons and or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in England. Distributed by Comag.

The Fat Controller still has not decided which of his engines from Scotland he should send back. Will it be Donald, or Douglas?

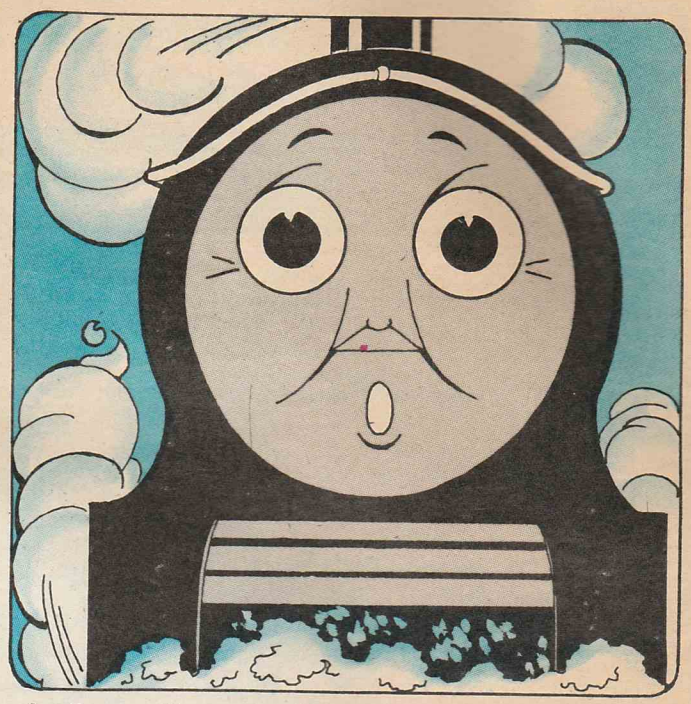
The Deputation



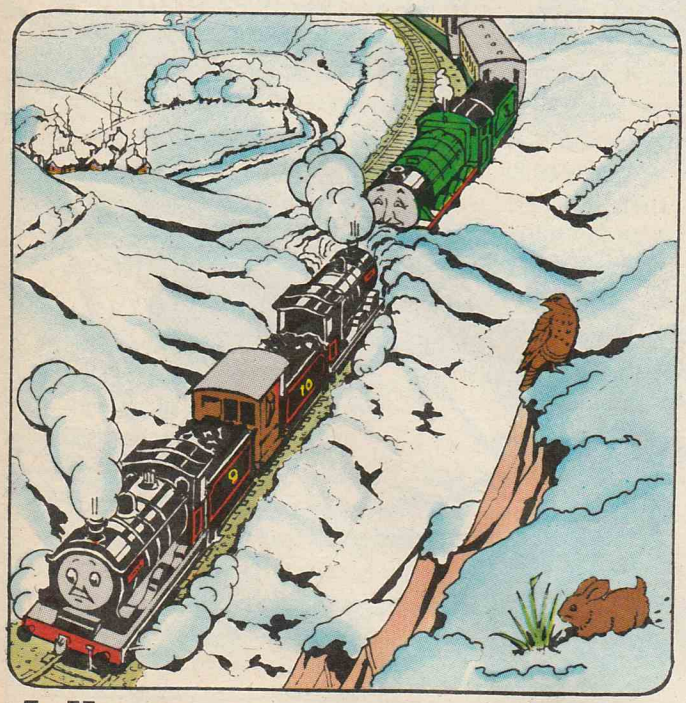
1. Snow came early to the Island of Sodor. It was heavier than usual. Most engines don't like snow, but Donald and Douglas were used to it, being from Scotland.

2. Coupled back to back with a van between their tenders and a snowplough on their fronts, they set to work. They puffed backwards and forwards clearing the line.

3. Generally the snow slipped away easily, but sometimes they found deeper drifts. Presently, they came to a drift which was larger than most. They charged it.

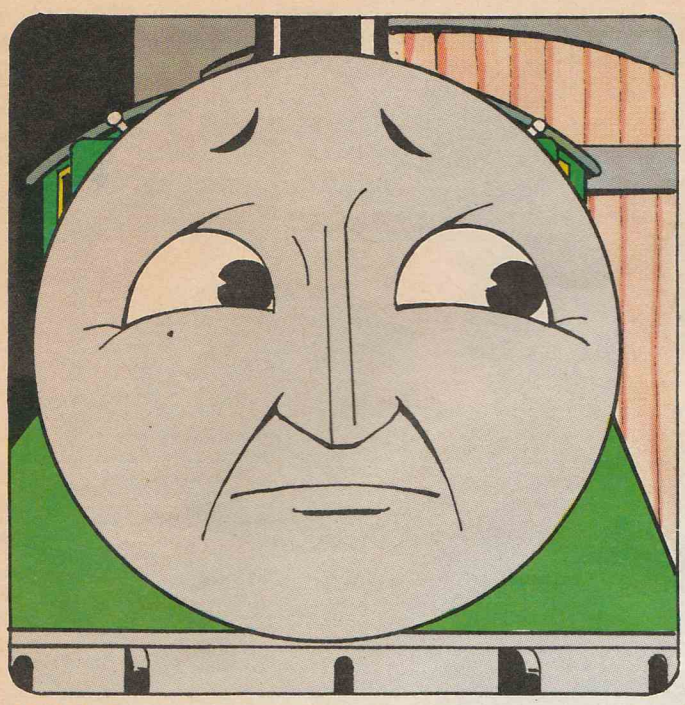


4. As they backed up for another try, the twins heard a whistle. "Losh sakes! It's Henry!" said Douglas. "Dinna fash yourself, Henry. We'll hae ye **oot** in a jiffy!" And they did.

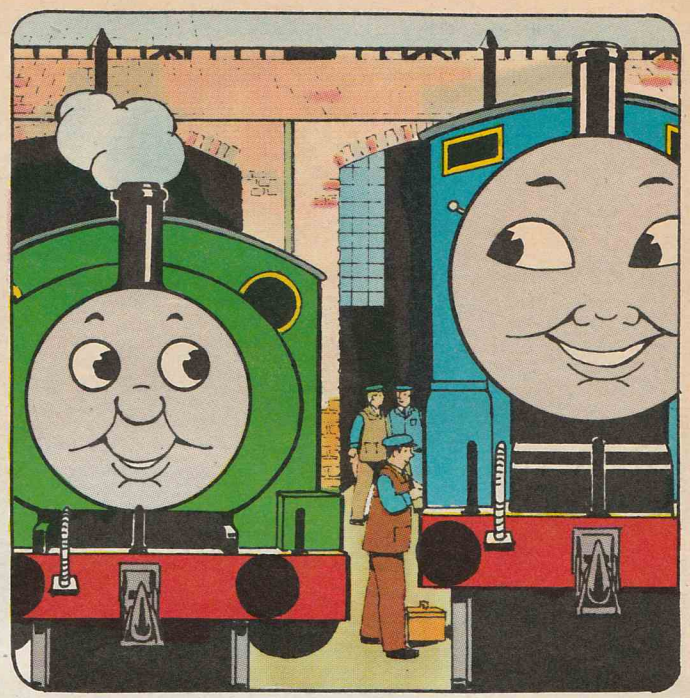


5. Henry was very grateful, but he saw all was not well. The twins were glum. The Fat Controller was returning soon. "He'll send one of us back for **shair**," they sighed.

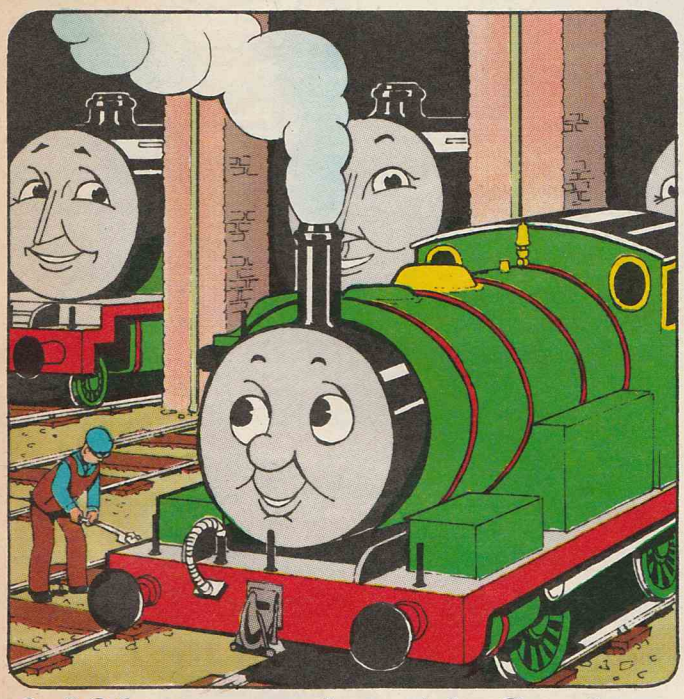
6. "It's such a shame!" said Percy. "All because they got into a spot of trouble," grumbled Gordon. "It wasn't even their fault," added James. "It was a nasty brakevan's."



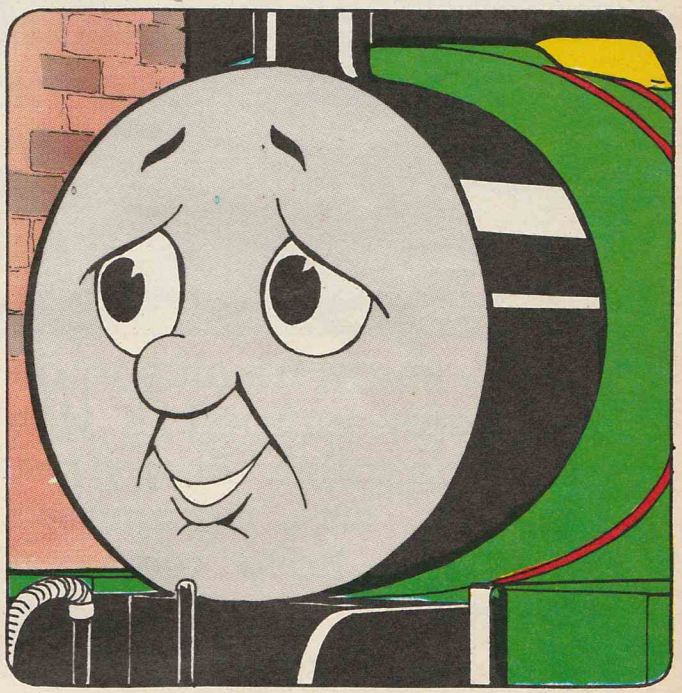
7. "They were splendid in the snow," added Henry. "It isn't fair." They all agreed that something must be done, but none knew what. Percy decided to talk to Edward.



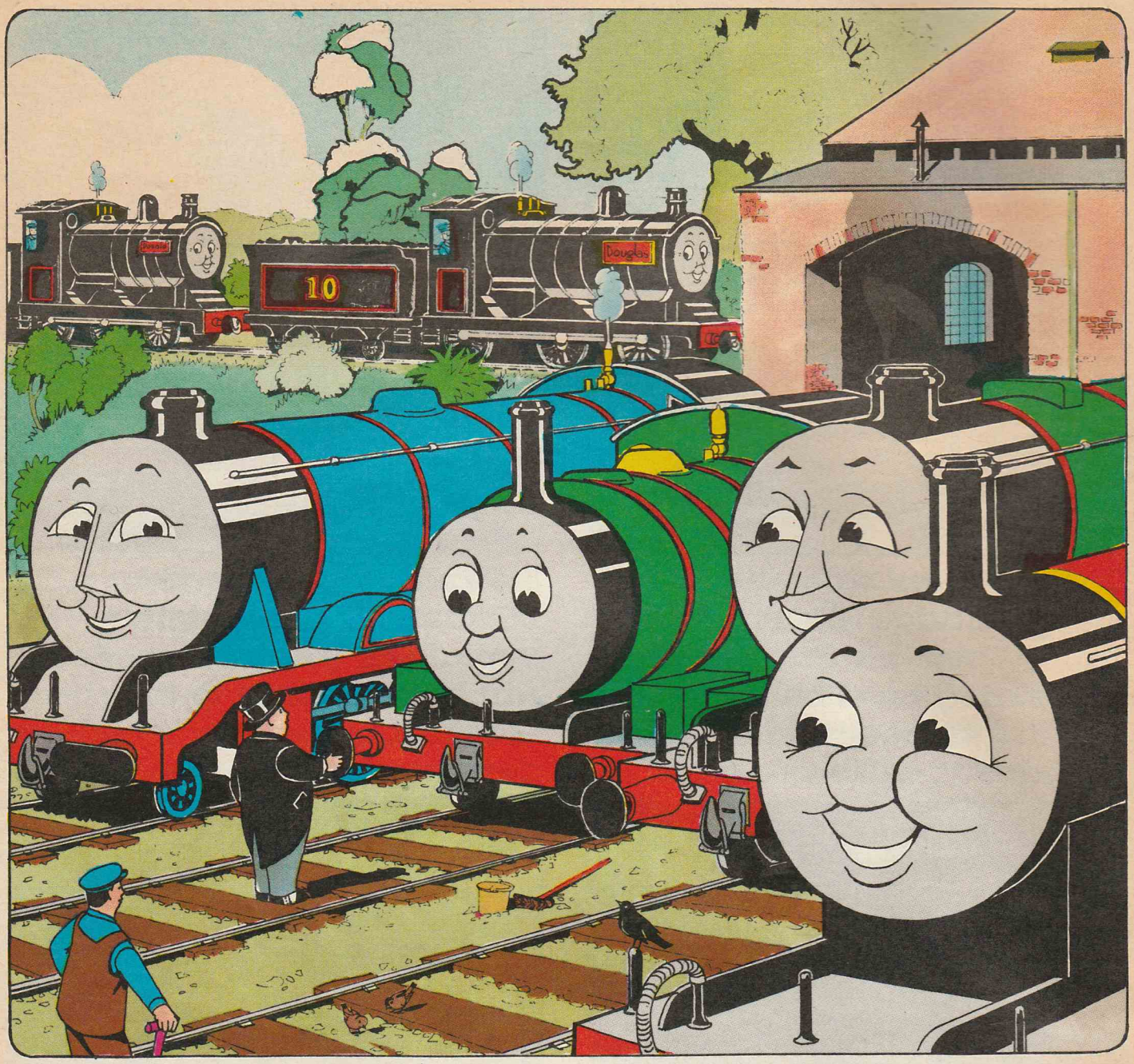
8. "What you need," said Edward, "is a **deputation**." He explained what it was. Percy ran back quickly to the shed. "Edward says we need a depotstation."



9. "Of course," said Gordon, "the question is. . ." "What is a desperation?" asked Henry. "When engines tell the Fat Controller something is wrong," explained Percy.



10. "I propose that Percy be our, er, disputation," said Gordon. "I can't!" squeaked Percy. "Tosh," said Henry. "Settled then," said Gordon. Percy wished it wasn't.



11. "Hullo Percy! It's nice to be back." Percy jumped. It was the Fat Controller. "Er, y-y-yes, sir. Please, sir," stammered Percy. "They have made a desperation to speak to you, sir." "Do you mean a **deputation**?" the Fat Controller asked. "Yes, sir," said Percy. "Please, sir. Don't send Donald or Douglas away, sir. Please"

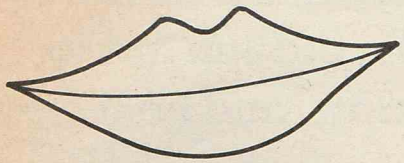
12. The Fat Controller spoke to the engines. "I have had a deputation and I understand your feelings, but I do not approve of **interference**." He paused impressively. "Donald and Douglas, I hear that your work in the snow was good and I have decided. . ." But he was drowned out by happy cheers and whistles. The twins were here to stay.

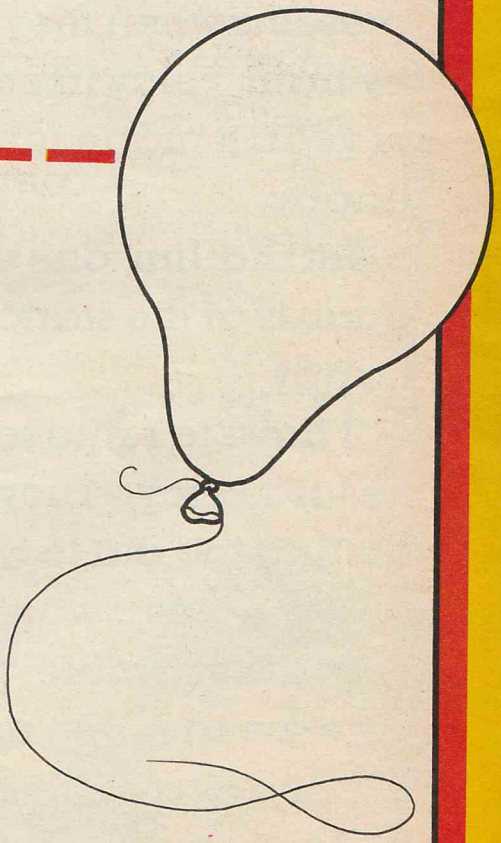
THE END

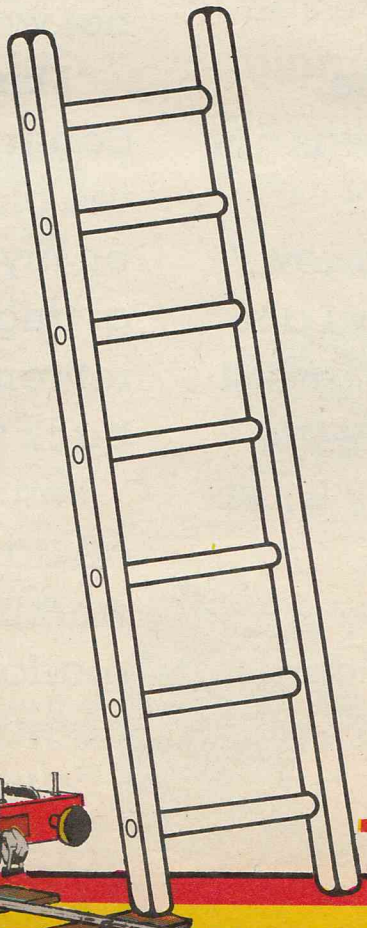
In our next issue: It's Christmas!

James's RED page!

Look at these pictures. Can you pick out their names from the box below? Label each picture and then colour each one – red!







ladder
balloon
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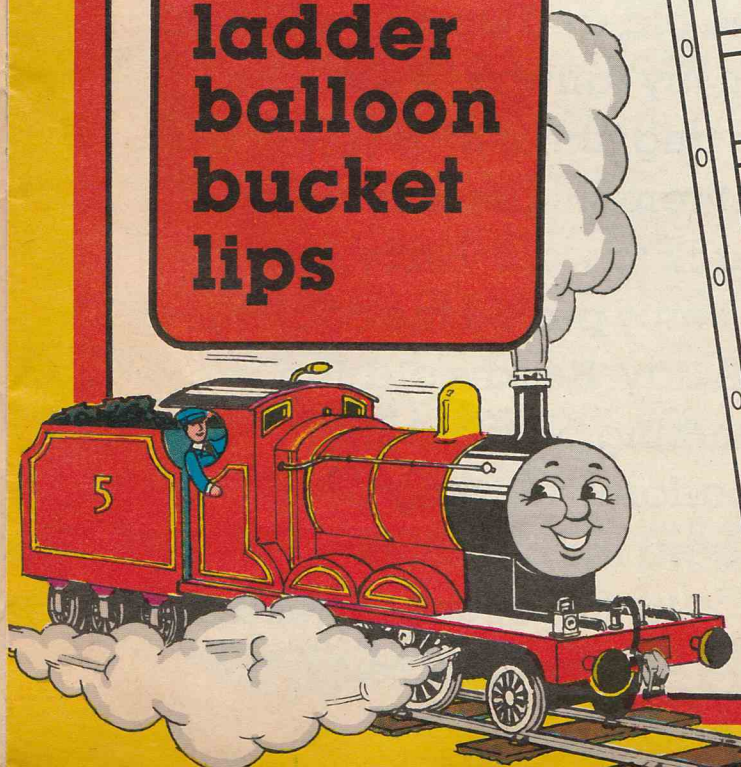
lips



A read-aloud story!

Retirement Day

It was nearly Christmas. There was a big fir tree in the village square, decorated with baubles and tinsel. People carried lots of shopping bags full of presents when they travelled by train. Percy liked this time of year. It made him feel happy.

But old Jim, one of the guards at the station, was not happy.

"I have to retire tomorrow," he told Percy. "They say I am getting too old to be a guard on the trains. I won't see the engines anymore. They'll just give me a watch, as a leaving present."

"Poor Jim," thought Percy. "He loves working here. I must speak to the Fat Controller about this."

Percy was very nervous. He was a little bit scared of the Fat Controller.

"What do you want, Percy?" said the Fat Controller, when Percy met him at the harbour.

"W-Well, Sir, old Jim has to retire tomorrow, and he does not want to."

"I know," said the Fat Controller, "but I am told he is too old and slow now to work on my railway. We will be giving him a nice watch as a retirement present. Now, back to work, Percy."

Percy pulled the coal trucks all day. He saw old Jim working on the station platform, helping people to board the coaches.

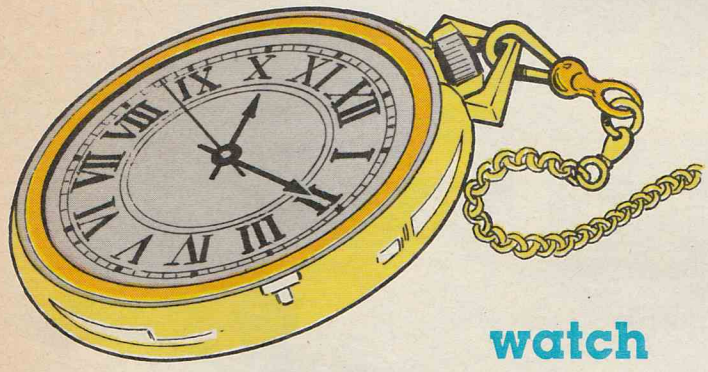
"Old Jim does not need a watch," thought Percy. "He

needs to carry on working at the station."

That afternoon, Percy could hear the Fat Controller shouting. "This office is a mess! I can never find anything!"

This gave Percy an idea. "Please, Sir," he said. "I know how you can keep your office tidy, and keep old Jim at the station."

"Well, I never!" exclaimed the Fat Controller. "Let's hear your idea, Percy."



watch

That evening, everyone lined up on the station platform to watch old Jim receive his watch. The engines were parked outside their sheds.

"This watch is for you, Jim," said the Fat Controller, handing the guard the watch on a gold chain. "For outstanding service as guard at the Station on this, your retirement day."

"Thank you, Sir," said old Jim, with a sad smile.

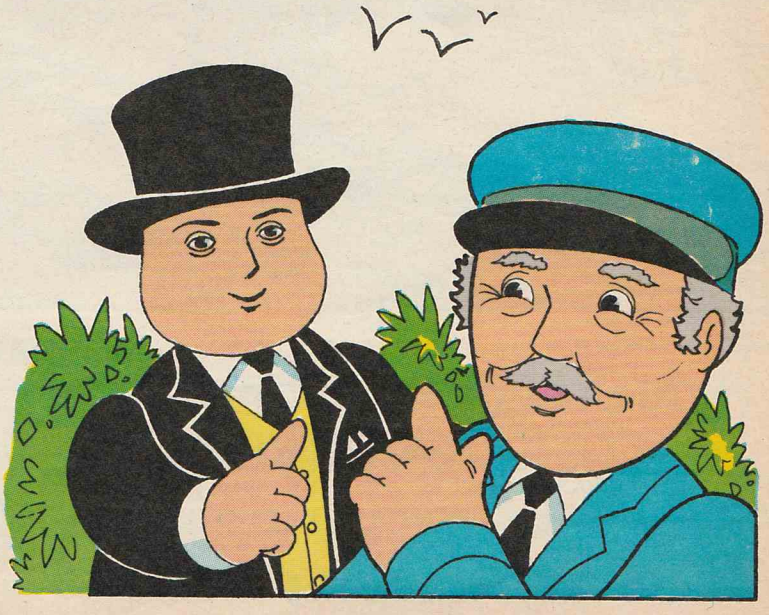
The Fat Controller went on. "Now that you don't have a job, I wonder if you would like to work in my office instead? I need someone to keep all the paperwork tidy, and to help make my tea and hot buttered toast."

Old Jim's face lit up. "Oh! I'd love that. Thank you."

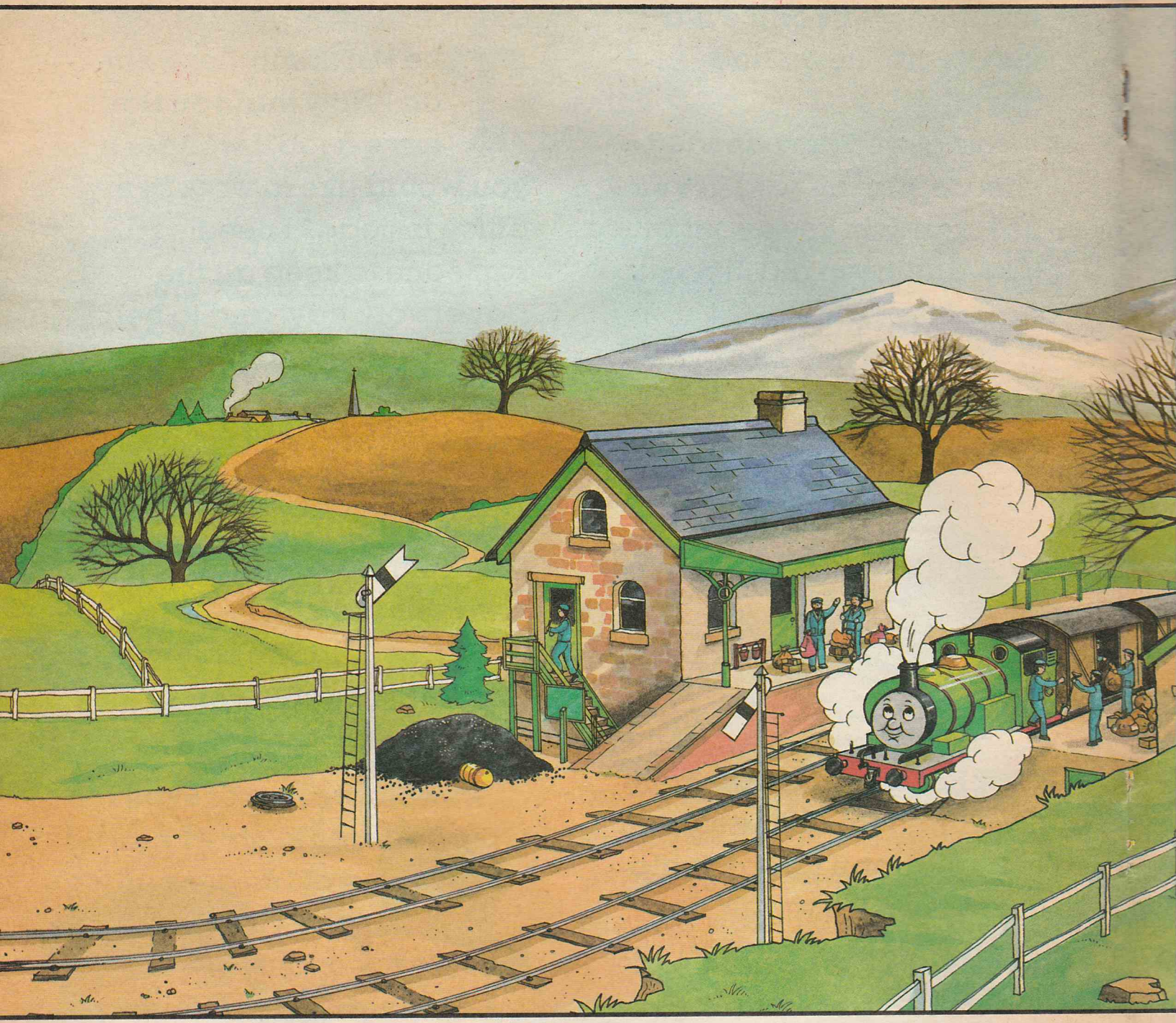
"Don't thank me," said the Fat Controller. "Thank Percy. It was his idea."

"Hurray! Old Jim is staying, after all," cheered Percy. "Peep, peep!"

THE END



Christmas



Which engine can you see?

What is he carrying in his wagons?

How many people are at the pillar box?

What colour is the pillar box?

Point to the postm

What is he holdin

Who is walking up

What is she carryi

post!

postman!
olding up?
ing up to him?
carrying?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next: It's Christmas Day!

Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below! I would be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My mum and I often read stories about your engines at bedtime. Before I fall asleep I think about you all. Do you ever dream about Thomas and his friends?

Love from **Adam,** aged 6.

Indeed I do, Adam, and very pleasant dreams they are too!

Adam wins a set of **Thomas the Tank Engine vinyl stickers,** from *Scorpio Products International Ltd.*

PEEP! PEEP!

Dear Fat Controller,
My son, aged 3, would like to know, do your engines sing often?

Love, **Mrs Ferguson.**

My engines do not exactly sing, but they do whistle away quite happily when need be.

SPLENDID VIEW!

Dear Fat Controller,
My house is near a railway but you cannot see it from the garden because there is a big, high wall. But from my bedroom window I can see the railway and watch the trains go by. I wave at all the trains and sometimes the passengers wave back at me.

Love from **Denise.**

*You have a perfect look-out point, Denise – and it's **safe** too.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

What a lot of birthdays! Our best wishes go to:

Paul Wage, Laurinda Jaffray, Kevin Seddon (13524), Neil Anderson, Kris Larner, Jonathan Davies, David Northedge, Simon Serbatoio (4708), Nicola Brown (1515), Anthony Frame, James and Joanne Myatt, Matthew Biggs, Stuart Fleet (11627), Darren Glover, Paul Ballard, Joel Crookes, Neil Stevens (17224), Jodie O'Mara, Ben Major, Suzie Lomas (6890), Hannah Isam (17658), Andrew Mekeresz, Adam Robinson, Adam Luck, Emma Daish, James Hockridge (1813), Rebecca and Daniel Kinsman, Carrie Anne Ball, Dale Evans, Anna Wren, William Taylor, Simon and Adam's baby brother, Simon Campbell (17348), David Swindells (13400), Martyn Simpson, Harrison Abbott (19200), Andrew Burgess, Stephanie Harrison, Lucy Elliott (2239), Andrew Williams (10004), Leigh Vokes, Jamie Mooruth, David Coulthard, Martin Turner, Michael McCormick (23089), Matthew Cruise, Carl Dinsdale, Guy Simpkins, Gilbey Lund (22223), Cameron Miller, Nicholas Groves-Kirkby (15202), Stephen Whiteford (2927), Samantha Walters, Brian Lockyer, Christopher Banks (5155), John T. Percival, Paul Dunn (16496), Gareth Hughes, Justin Clements, Michael Wollvin, Christopher Parkins, Patrick Suttie, Richard Grove, Russell Turner, Nicholas Hawtin and Adam Chisnall.

Many happy returns to you all!

If you'd like a special birthday mention, just send details on a postcard, at least **8 weeks in advance!**

Yours,

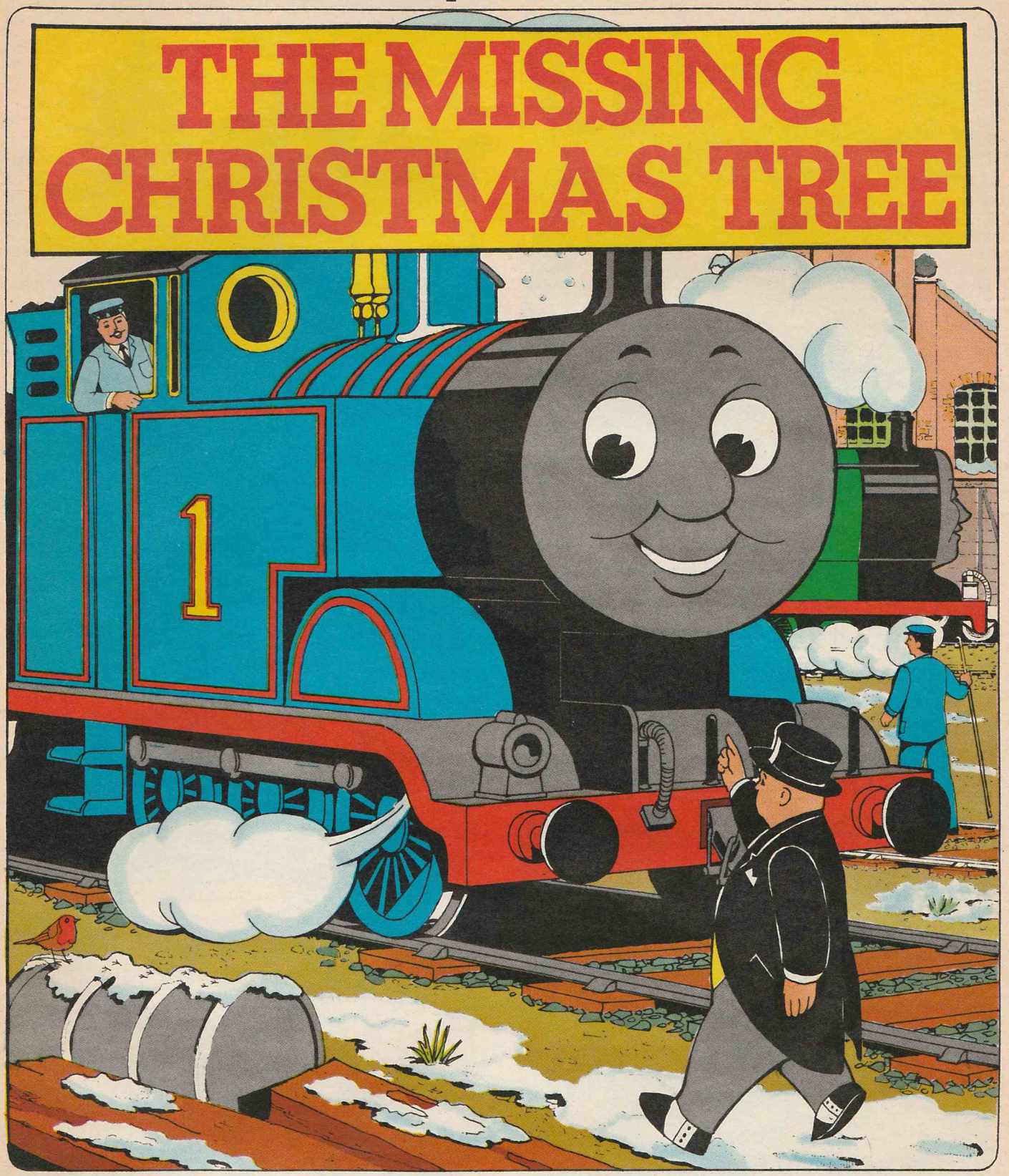
Sir Topham Hatt

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: **The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2**

A listen and look story!

THE MISSING CHRISTMAS TREE

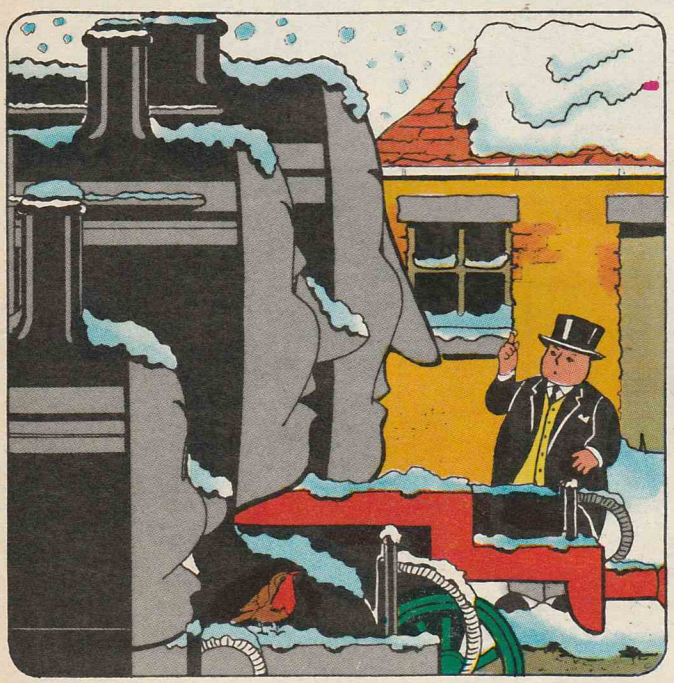


1. It was a few days before Christmas. Many children were expected on the Island of Sodor. All the engines were busy with the final preparations.

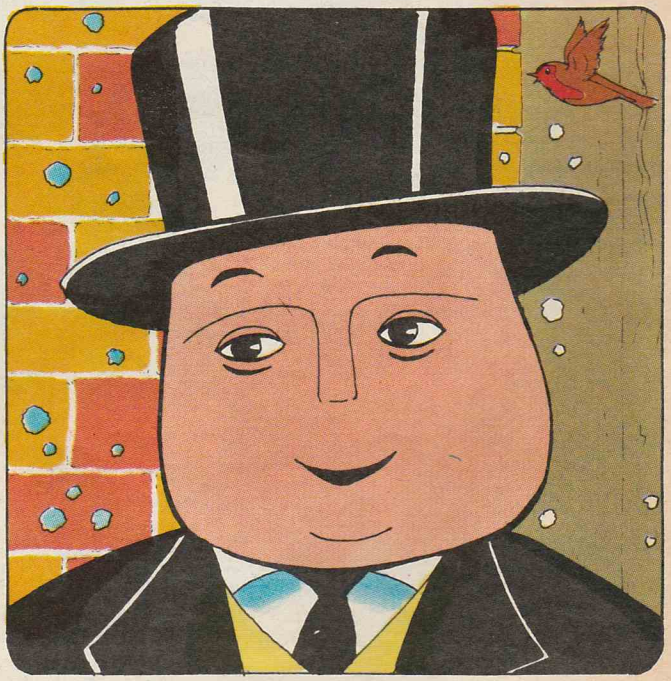
2. The Fat Controller wanted this year's carol party to be an extra special celebration. "Quickly now, Thomas," he said. "Our Christmas tree has only just arrived."

3."I want you to fetch it, Thomas," he said. "Will we be able to sing carols too?" asked Thomas. "We'll see," promised the Fat Controller. Thomas set off.

4. Thomas collected the tree safely, but huge snow drifts lay ahead. "I mustn't be late," he thought. Whistling bravely, Thomas tried to move, but he couldn't!



5. Poor Thomas was snowed in. Meanwhile, the other engines waited and waited. They grumbled about Thomas for being late. "Silence!" said the Fat Controller.

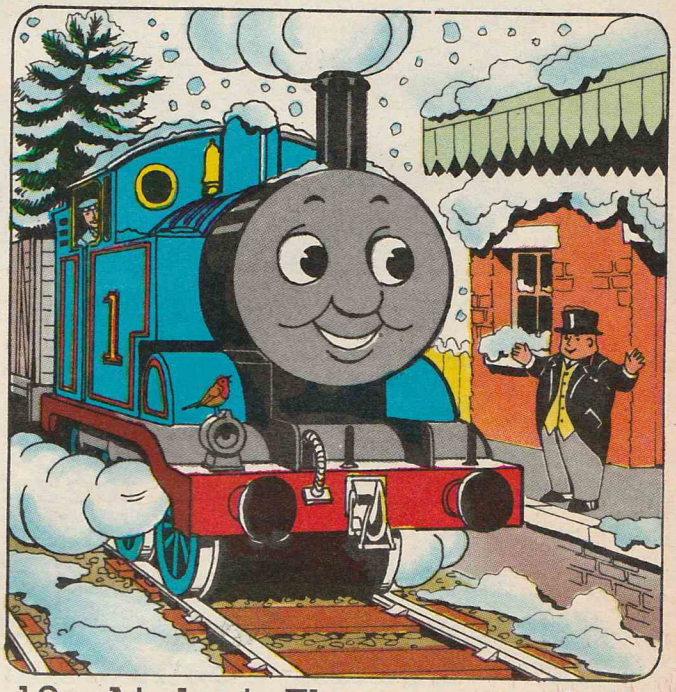


6."Thomas left the works safely, but snow has brought the telephone lines down," he said. "Thomas must be stranded." The engines now felt sorry for Thomas.

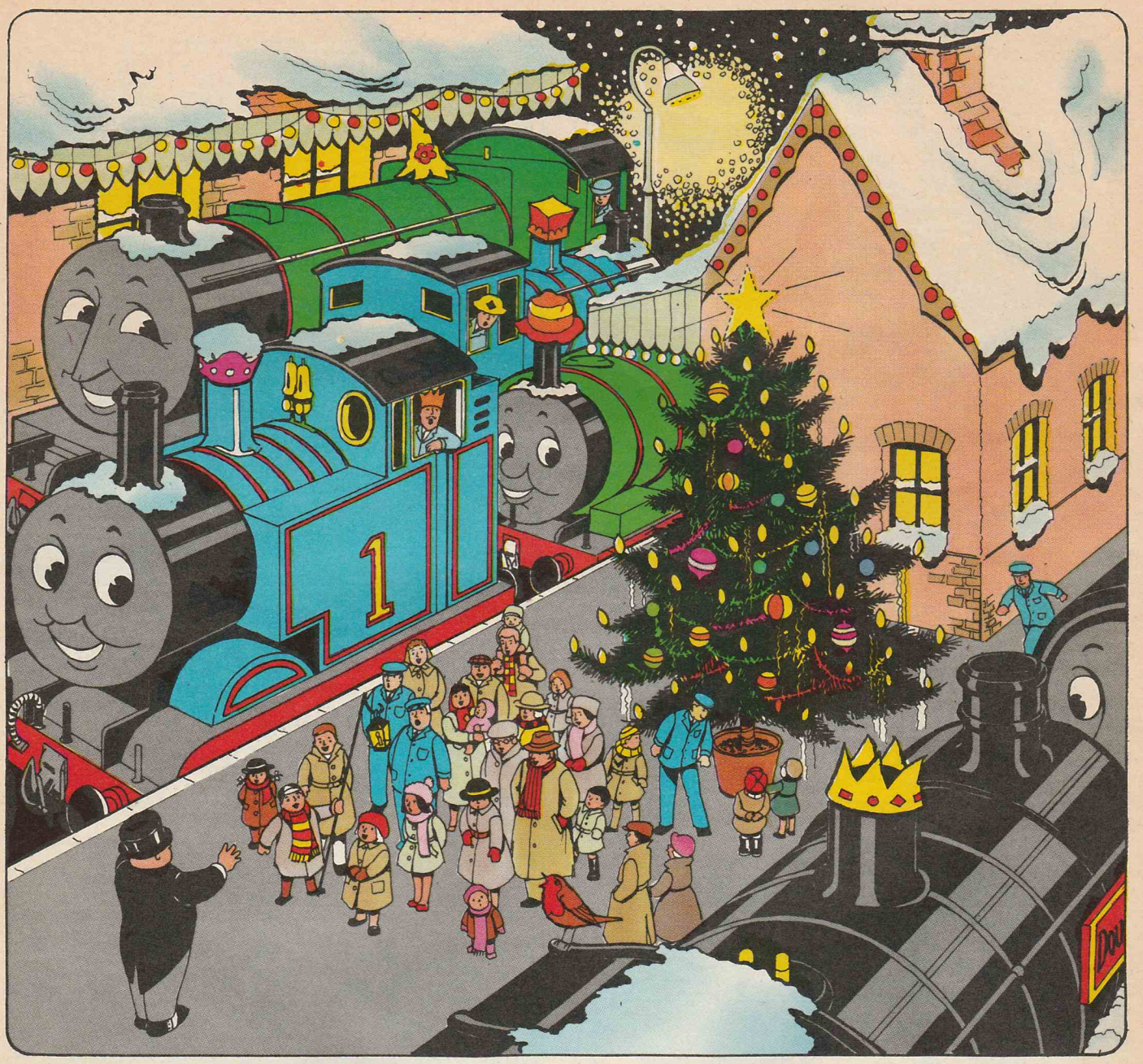
7. Cold but confident, the twins set off to the rescue. They came to a drift that was deeper than the rest. "Hush," said Donald. "I can hear something."

8. "Probably the wind," said Douglas. "No, listen," said Donald. "Over here." "Help!" cried a voice. "Ooch, it's Thomas," said Douglas. "He must be **frozen** in there."

9. It took some time for the workmen to decide how to dig away the heavy snow. Thomas's driver and fireman, who had taken shelter in a nearby cottage, joined the rescue.



10. At last Thomas and the precious Christmas tree were freed from the snow drift. When they finally finished their journey, the Fat Controller greeted them warmly.



11. "As a reward for your hard work, you may join in with the carols," said the Fat Controller. "Be quick now." At the big station all was soon ready. "One! Two! Three!" boomed the Fat Controller. As if by magic, the station was flooded with lights! "Ladies, gentlemen and children. Three cheers for Thomas and his friends!"

12. "They have made this occasion possible," said the Fat Controller. Suddenly there was a strange whirring sound. Percy and Toby knew who it was and they smiled. With landing lights shining brightly, Harold the Helicopter touched down in the snow. He had brought with him the greatest surprise of all, Father Christmas.

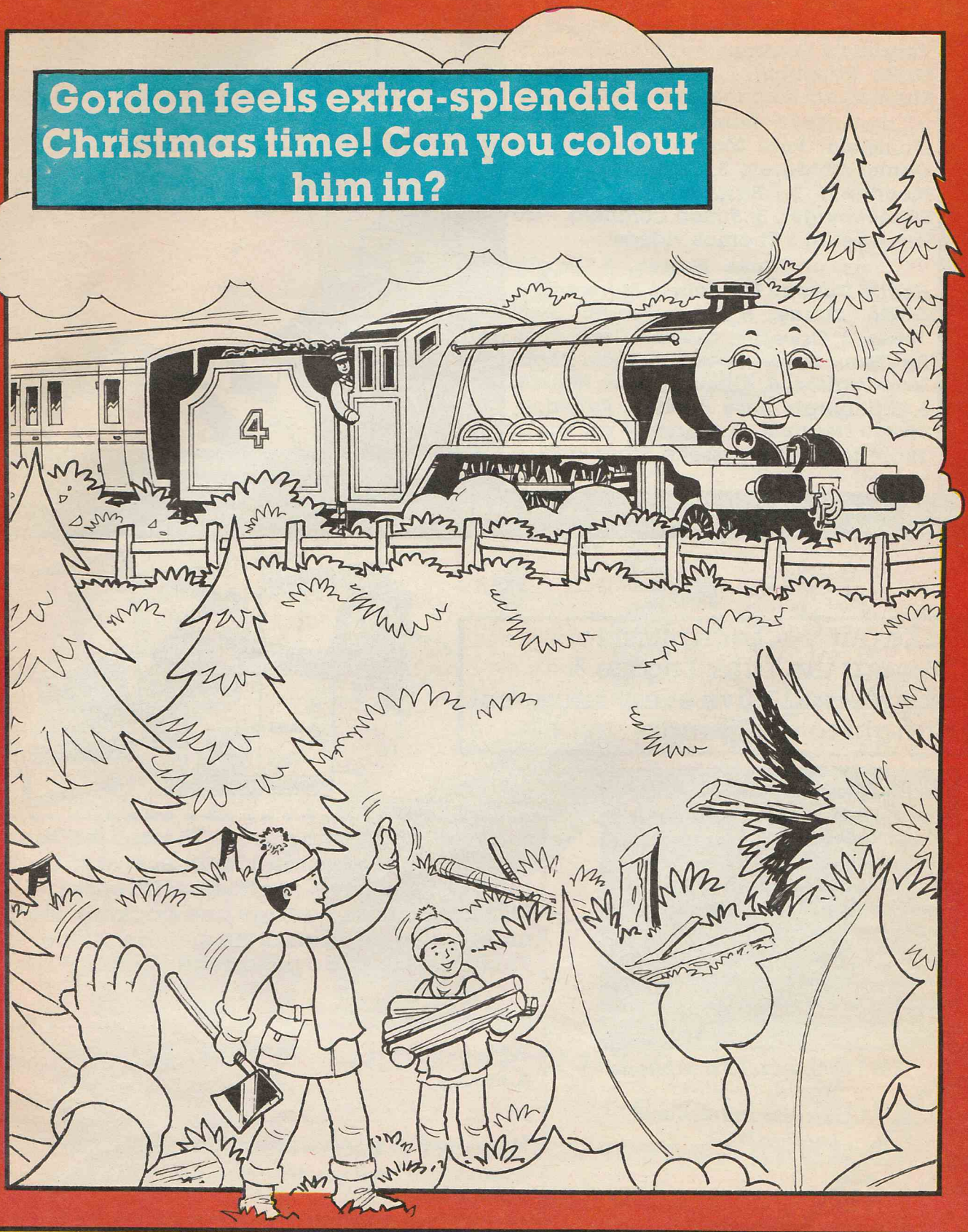
THE END

A merry Christmas to you all!

See Father Christmas on page 19!

COLOURING TIME!

Gordon feels extra-splendid at Christmas time! Can you colour him in?



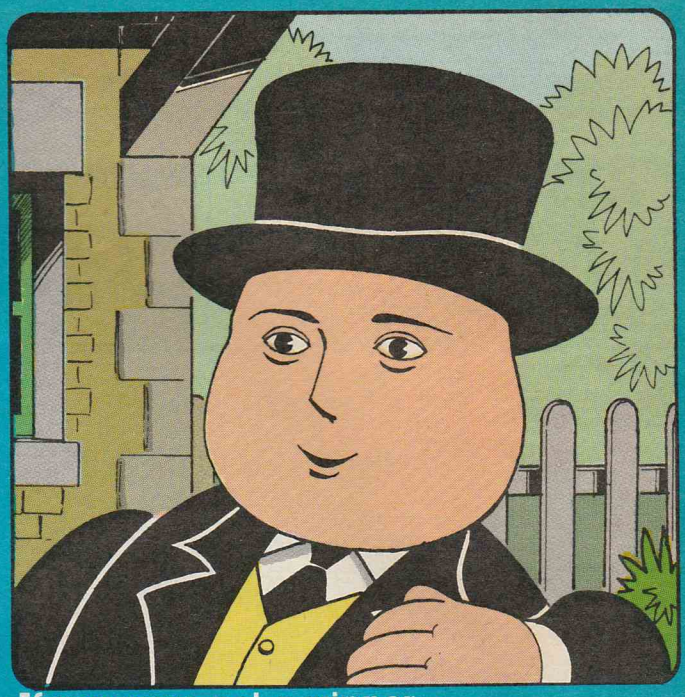
COMPETITION WINNERS!

★ Do you remember the **Spot the Bird Competition** which appeared in issue 27 of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends?** Here are the names of the lucky winners! ★

First: Nicholas Byrne, aged 3, from *Flint*; **Sarah Large,** 4, *Swindon*; **Alex Richards,** 6, *Mudeford;* **Alec Stanley,** 4, *Burghfield Common* and **Mark Wood,** 5, *Great Yarmouth* – all win a set of Thomas audio cassette stories!

Second: Ryan Lamb, aged 3, from *Mansfield;* **Paul Mooney,** 6, *Glasgow;* **Daniel Chidgzey,** 3, *Enfield*; **Nicholas Meadows,** 3, *Basildon* and **Martin Schneeberger,** 3, *Sutton Coldfield* – all win a set of 3 Thomas videos!

Runners up: Jake Halsey, 3, *Bexley Heath*; **Duncan Malcolm,**4, *Morecombe*; **David Young,** 5, *Farnborough;* **Paul Jones,** 2, *Oswestry*; **Gemma Creasey,** 3, *Basildon*; **Martin Limm,** 7, *Wyke Regis*; **Mark Arnold,** 4, *Allenton*; **Alan Rennie,** 6, *Edinburgh*; **Lucy Barry,** 3, *Kettering*; **Sarah Treagust,** 9, *Warley* – all win a Thomas audio cassette story and a video!

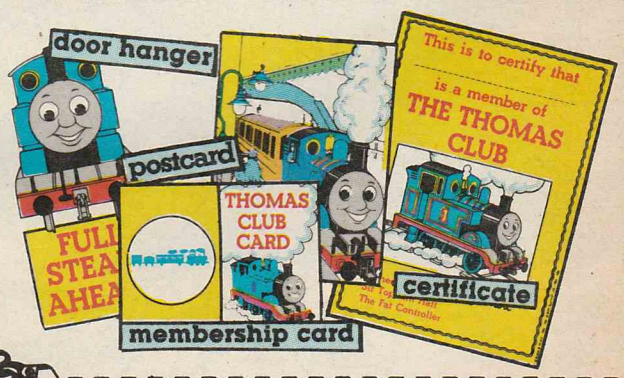


If you were not a winner – better luck next time...

All prizes come from the Pickwick Group plc.

News of a great offer!

Take out a subscription to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends and have every issue sent straight to your home!



What's more, if you do not already belong to the **Thomas Club,** you will automatically become an immediate member and your exciting **Club Pack** will be sent to you too!
It costs **£9.75** including postage and packing, to be sent **26 issues** of **Thomas the Tank Engine.** Just fill in the form and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9.75 to:

Thomas Subscriptions,
Marvel Comics,
13/15 Arundel Street,
London WC2.

Please allow 28 days for delivery of your first magazine and Club Pack.

I should like to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine** and understand I will receive 26 issues by post. I enclose a cheque/postal order for **£9.75** to include postage and packing. Please enrol me as an immediate member of the **Thomas Club** If I do not already belong!

Name.....

Age..... **Birthday**.....

Address.....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian.....

Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Make your cheque or postal order payable to *Marvel Comics Ltd.*

See Thomas, Percy and James's for details of a £1 DISCOUNT OFFER!
GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS
In the shops now!

JOIN THE DOTS!

Who has Harold the helicopter spotted? Join the dots to complete this Christmas scene – and then you can finish colouring it in!

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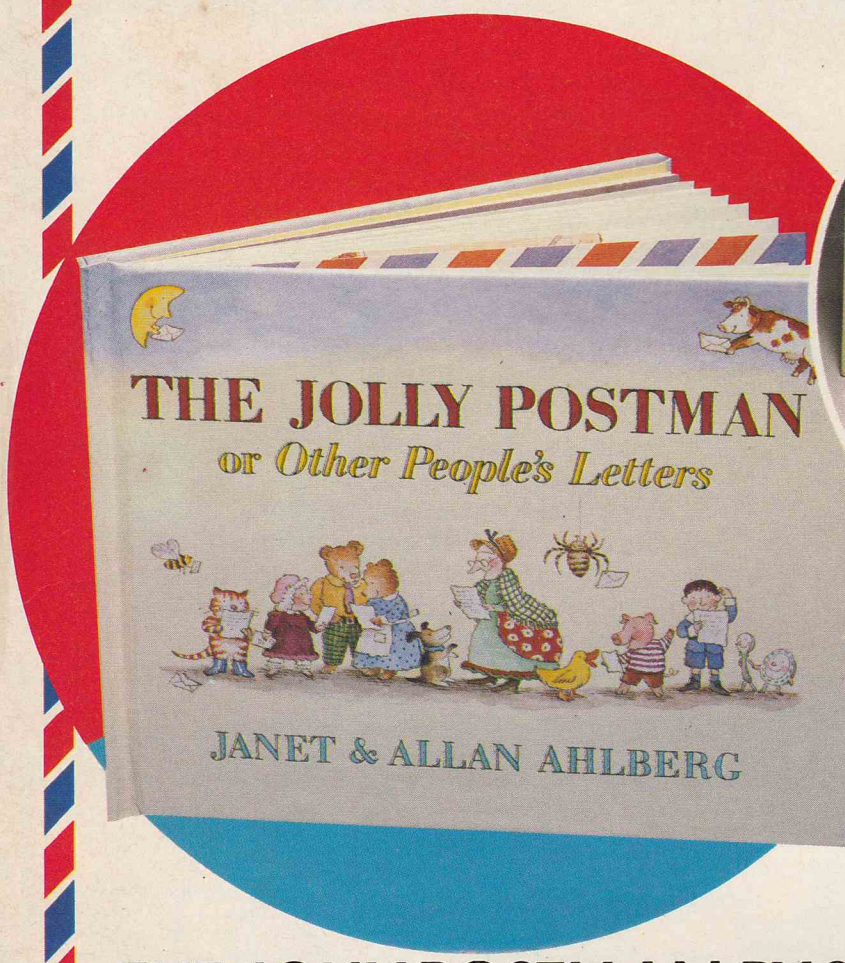

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